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BAMcinématek and The Jim Henson Foundation present the second edition of *Puppets on Film*, a survey of live puppetry in cinema, Nov 9—11

Special family programs Nov 10 & 11 feature workshops with live performances and puppet-making

Special guests include Cheryl & Heather Henson, Leslie Carrara-Rudolph (voice of *Sesame Street*'s Abby Cadabby), *NeverEnding Story* voice actor Alan Oppenheimer, and more!

The Wall Street Journal is the title sponsor for BAMcinématek and BAM Rose Cinemas.

Brooklyn, NY/Oct 10, 2012—From Friday, November 9 through Sunday, November 11, BAMcinématek and The Jim Henson Foundation present the second edition of *Puppets on Film*, following the highly successful inaugural series last fall. This year, the three-day festival celebrates puppet cinema with 10 features, 18 shorts, special guests, family workshops, and the New York premiere of a *Labyrinth* Sing-Along extravaganza.

Long before computer-generated imagery, inanimate and often fantastical creations of fabric, foam, and wood were brought to life by hidden human hands. *Puppets on Film* assembles works of fiction and nonfiction to once again celebrate the universal, magical art of puppetry and the myriad ways in which the art form has been incorporated into live-action filmmaking.

The series kicks off on Friday, November 9 with two 80s fantasies in 35mm—Wolfgang Petersen's *The NeverEnding Story* (1984—6:50pm), about a boy who discovers a mythical world through the pages of the titular book, and Jim Henson's *Labyrinth* (1986—4:30pm), starring a young Jennifer Connelly on a quest to save her baby brother from Jareth the Goblin King (a wild-haired David Bowie). *The NeverEnding Story* will be introduced by Alan Oppenheimer, voice of Falkor, Rockbiter, and G'mork (and a bevy of beloved 80s cartoon characters!). Not just for kids, these cult classics have maintained a following among older generations, and as a special treat, Jim Henson's daughter Heather presents the New York premiere of her *Labyrinth* Sing-Along (10:30pm). This interactive *Rocky Horror*-esque romp features a cast of actors (and the audience!) in costume, plus goodie bags and, of course, lots of singing.

The family friendly fare continues on Saturday, November 10 with the Academy Award-nominated breakout hit *Babe* (1995—2pm), which features beautifully crafted animatronics from Jim Henson's Creature Shop (Creature Shop Creative Supervisor Peter Brooke will introduce the film), and a rare screening of the stunning *Strings* (2004—4:30pm), about a mythological kingdom populated entirely by stringed puppets. This seldom-seen tour de force, featuring voice work by James McAvoy and Catherine McCormick, has not been seen in New York since its original (very) limited release, and its unforgettable, dazzling

imagery is ripe for rediscovery. Both films screen in 35mm. The series would be incomplete without at least a few Muppets to round it out. ***The Muppets Take Manhattan*** (1984—Nov 11) kicks off the Sunday lineup with favorites Kermit, Miss Piggy, Gonzo, and the rest of the gang trying their hand (or paw) on Broadway, featuring cameos by Art Carney, Joan Rivers, Liza Minnelli, BAMcinématek favorite John Landis, and more. The screening will be introduced by Leslie Carrara-Rudolph, who plays Abby Cadabby on *Sesame Street*.

Puppets on Film also features two children's shorts programs—**Shortstack! Family Films** and **Live Action Puppet Shorts** on Saturday and Sunday, respectively—showcasing many independent shorts. Among the highlights in this year's shorts programs are a variety of new **Sesame Street** shorts as well as the world premiere of Mauricio Baiocchi's ***Cicada Princess***, based on his soon-to-be released children's book of the same name. Among the screenings on Saturday and Sunday are several exciting live performances and workshops for the whole family: ***Father Goose's Tales*** (Nov 10), a performance of a modern retelling of nursery rhymes using the ancient art of shadow puppetry; a **Shadow Puppet Family Workshop** (Sat, Nov 10) in which children make their own creations with the help of master puppeteer Jim "Nappy" Napolitano; and John Kennedy's the **Sweatshirt Sheep Puppetmaking Workshop**, (Sun, Nov 11) featuring a screening of puppet short *The Sure Sheep* and a workshop in which participants create their own puppets before performing with them live on camera.

Puppets may be perennial children's favorites, but they appear in a diverse range of films for adults, too. Selections for older generations include ***Dante's Inferno*** (2007—Nov 11), a toy theater-style adaptation of the 2004 graphic novel; Steven Spielberg's record-breaking blockbuster ***Jurassic Park*** (1993—Nov 11), which uses a combination of puppetry, special effects, and early computer graphics to create the lifelike dinosaurs; and Jodie Foster's ***The Beaver*** (2011—Nov 10), starring Mel Gibson as a man who rediscovers himself with the help of a stuffed beaver hand puppet. Finally, two recent documentaries about the art of puppetry will screen with the subjects in person: Nina Conti's ode to ventriloquism ***The Master's Voice*** (2012—Nov 10) and Neil Berkeley's ***Beauty is Embarrassing*** (2012—Nov 11), an irreverent glimpse into creator Wayne White's puppets and props of *Pee-wee's Playhouse*.

For select screeners or for press information, please contact

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Puppets on Film Schedule

Fri, Nov 9

4:30pm: *Labyrinth*

6:50pm: *The NeverEnding Story*

10:30pm: *Labyrinth* Sing-Along

Sat, Nov 10

10:30am: *Father Goose's Tales* family program

12pm: Shortstack! Family Films

12:15pm: Shadow Puppet Family Workshop

2pm: *Babe*

2:30pm: *Father Goose's Tales* family program

4:15pm: Shadow Puppet Family Workshop

4:30pm: *Strings*

6:50pm: *Her Master's Voice*

9:30pm: *The Beaver*

Sun, Nov 11

11am: *The Muppets Take Manhattan*

11am: The Sweatshirt Sheep Puppetmaking Workshop

1pm: Live Action Puppet Shorts

2:30pm: The Sweatshirt Sheep Puppetmaking Workshop

3pm: *Jurassic Park*
6:50pm: *Beauty is Embarrassing*
9:30pm: *Dante's Inferno*

Film, Performances, and Workshop Descriptions

Babe (1995) 35mm.

Directed by Chris Noonan. With James Cromwell, Magda Szubanski.

Babe is a small pig with big dreams. The runt of the litter, he must learn to find his place on the Hoggett's farm. This breakout hit features beautifully crafted animatronics from Jim Henson's Creature Shop and was nominated for multiple Oscars, including Best Director and Best Picture, and won Best Visual Effects. Ages 4+

Sat, Nov 10 at 2pm Intro by Jim Henson's Creature Shop Creative Supervisor Peter Brooke

Beauty is Embarrassing (2012) DCP.

Directed by Neil Berkeley.

This funny, irreverent, and inspiring documentary is a portrait of artist Wayne White, one of the creators of the beloved children's television show *Pee-wee's Playhouse*, whose design style and quirky sensibility have led him on a fascinating career path from puppets to props to the world of fine art.

Sun, Nov 11 at 6:50pm Q&A with Wayne White

The Beaver (2011) 35mm.

Directed by Jodie Foster. With Mel Gibson, Foster.

Once a successful toy executive and family man, Walter Black (Gibson) finds himself deep in depression when a beaver hand puppet enters his life and helps him rediscover himself. Jodie Foster directs and co-stars in this touching drama.

Sat, Nov 10 at 9:30pm

Dante's Inferno (2007) DCP.

Directed by Sean Meredith.

Follow Dante on a travelogue through the underworld in this dark comedy adapted from the 2004 graphic novel of the same name. A full-length work created entirely in the style of toy theater, *Dante's Inferno* combines paper puppets and beautiful illustrations. Puppet theater, comic book, and indie film fans, be advised—the artistry is gorgeous. Featuring Paul Zaloom as lead puppeteer and a voice cast that includes actors from *Upright Citizens Brigade*, *30 Rock*, *Arrested Development*, and *Aqua Teen Hunger Force*.

Sun, Nov 11 at 9:30pm

Father Goose's Tales 60min

Nappy's Puppets Performance

Mother Goose has taken the day off and Father Goose must do all her chores, including storytelling! Try as he might Father Goose just can't get the stories right. *Father Goose's Tales* is a funny modern retelling of nursery rhymes, stories, and children's songs using the ancient art of shadow puppetry. Jim "Nappy" Napolitano is an internationally recognized puppeteer who has performed for the PBS show *Between the Lions*, Disney's *The Book of Pooh*, and Nickelodeon in *A Show of Hands*. Ages 2+

Sat, Nov 10 at 10:30am and 2:30pm in the Hillman Attic Studio

Her Master's Voice (2012) HDCAM.

Directed by Nina Conti. With Conti, Jim Broadbent.

Internationally acclaimed ventriloquist Nina Conti takes the bereaved puppets of her mentor Ken Campbell on a pilgrimage to Venthaven, the resting place for puppets of dead ventriloquists. She gets to know her latex and wooden traveling partners along the way, and with them deconstructs herself in this ventriloquial documentary requiem.

Sat, Nov 10 at 6:50pm Q&A with Nina Conti

Jurassic Park (1993) 35mm.

Directed by Steven Spielberg. With Sam Neill, Laura Dern.

John Hammond is on the brink of opening Jurassic Park, a zoo with live dinosaurs. When he offers a group of scientists a preview tour, the theme park suffers a major power outage that puts everyone's lives in danger. Deadly velociraptors, a giant T. rex, and more await in Spielberg's record-breaking hit. Relive this amazing combination of animatronics from Stan Winston Studios and visual effects by George Lucas' ILM.

Sun, Nov 11 at 3pm *Introduced by puppeteer Matt Winston*

Labyrinth (1986) 35mm.

Directed by Jim Henson. With David Bowie, Jennifer Connelly.

In a fantasy land populated by a host of vividly imagined creatures, Sarah goes on a quest to save her baby brother Toby from the Goblin King. Immersing us in a world inspired by the works of Brian Froud and created by Jim Henson's Creature Shop, this cult classic features a stellar cast, including a young Jennifer Connelly and the incomparable David Bowie, who boogies along with the goblins to his single "Magic Dance." Ages 6+

Fri, Nov 9 at 4:30pm *Intro by puppet builder and puppeteer Cheryl Henson*

Labrynth Sing-Along

For the first time in New York, join Jim Henson's youngest daughter Heather as she leads the audience in an interactive *Rocky Horror*-esque romp through the puppet fantasy film that we all know and love.

Goodie bags, confetti, goblins, songs, surprises, Bowie's hair, and more! Audience members are invited to dress for the occasion. Ages 13+

Fri, Nov 9 at 10:30pm

Live Action Puppet Shorts

Beautiful, humorous, dark, and fascinating—experience puppets as you've never seen them before. This selection of works will delight and amaze. Highlights include: the New York premiere of Kevin McTurk's award-winning *The Narrative of Victor Karloch*, Jonathan Langager's *Josephine and the Roach*, Joseph Mann's *Small Hands*, and the world premiere of Mauricio Baiocchi's *Cicada Princess*. Ages 10+

Sun, Nov 11 at 1pm *Q&A with many of the filmmakers*

The Muppets Take Manhattan (1984) 35mm.

Directed by Frank Oz.

The Muppets are in the Big Apple hoping to make their dreams on Broadway come true. Join Kermit, Miss Piggy, Gonzo, Fozzie, and all the usual (and not-so-usual) suspects. If they can make it here, they can make it anywhere! Come see old friends on the big screen, with appearances by Art Carney, Joan Rivers, Liza Minnelli, Brooke Shields, and more.

Sun, Nov 11 at 11am *Intro by Leslie Carrara-Rudolph (Abby Cadabby on Sesame Street)*

The NeverEnding Story (1984) 35mm.

Directed by Wolfgang Petersen. With Noah Hathaway, Barret Oliver.

Bullied in his ordinary life, young Bastian hides away in a book shop, where he is drawn into the mythical world of Fantasia while reading a book called *The NeverEnding Story*. Fantasia is in peril, though, as the Nothing threatens to destroy it, and its only hope is Bastian's imagination. Filled with awesome puppets, creatures of all shapes and sizes, and special effects the likes of which are rarely seen today on the big screen. Ages 8+

Fri, Nov 9 at 6:50pm *Q&A with Alan Oppenheimer, voice of Falkor, Rockbiter, and G'mork*

Shadow Puppet Family Workshop 45min

Make your own shadow puppet with master puppeteer Jim "Nappy" Napolitano after the performance of *Father Goose's Tales*. Ages 5+

Sat, Nov 10 at 12:15pm and 4:15pm in the Hillman Attic Studio

Shortstack! Family Films

Whimsical, unique, funny, and charming, this collection of short films will delight and entrance both young and old. Talking hot dogs, robots, and a boy with a thing for cupcakes are just some of the zany

characters you'll meet. Featuring the New York premieres of Paul Andrejco's *Mother Hubbard Among Others* and Philip Hodges' *Dig*, as well as new works from *Sesame Street*, Henson Alternative, and more!
Sat, Nov 10 at 12pm

Strings (2004) 35mm.

Directed by Anders Rønnow Klarlund. With James McAvoy.

This visually stunning film tells the story of a prince who sets out on a journey to avenge his father's death. Set in a mythological kingdom populated entirely by stringed puppets, this dramatic tale of adventure, bondage, and liberation plays with the metaphor of the marionette as a human proxy controlled from on high, dazzling audiences with unforgettable imagery.

Sat, Nov 10 at 4:30pm Intro by puppeteers Craig Marin and Olga Felgemacher

The Sweatshirt Sheep Puppetmaking Workshop 120min

Be inspired to make your own puppets by a screening of puppeteer/filmmaker John Kennedy's short puppet film *The Sure Sheep*. The film follows a little sheep named Tad who overcomes his fear of playing his banjo in front of others to save his farm. Participants will make their own puppets and then perform with their creations in front of a camera, providing an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the techniques of the world of their favorite puppet films and television shows. Kennedy has been a puppeteer in film and television for more than 17 years. Some of his many credits include *Sesame Street*, *Dinosaurs*, *Telling Stories with Tomie DePaola*, *The Wubbulous World of Dr. Seuss*, *Muppets Tonight*, *Muppets From Space*, *The Country Bears*, and the drum-savvy pooch Mel the Dog for Noggin's *Jack's Big Music Show*. He is also the author of the hit puppet-making books *Puppet Mania* and *Puppet Planet*. Ages 8—10

Sun, Nov 11 at 11am and 2:30pm in the Hillman Attic Studio

About BAMcinématek

The four-screen BAM Rose Cinemas (BRC) opened in 1998 to offer Brooklyn audiences alternative and independent films that might not play in the borough otherwise, making BAM the only performing arts center in the country with two mainstage theaters and a multiplex cinema. In July 1999, beginning with a series celebrating the work of Spike Lee, BAMcinématek was born as Brooklyn's only daily, year-round repertory film program. BAMcinématek presents new and rarely seen contemporary films, classics, work by local artists, and festivals of films from around the world, often with special appearances by directors, actors, and other guests. BAMcinématek has not only presented major retrospectives by major filmmakers such as Michelangelo Antonioni, Manoel de Oliveira, Shohei Imamura, Vincente Minnelli (winning a National Film Critics' Circle Award prize for the retrospective) Kaneto Shindo, Luchino Visconti, , but it has also introduced New York audiences to contemporary artists such as Pedro Costa and Apichatpong Weerasethakul. In addition, BAMcinématek programmed the first US retrospectives of directors Arnaud Desplechin, Nicolas Winding Refn, Hong Sang-soo, and, most recently, Andrzej Zulawski. From 2006 to 2008, BAMcinématek partnered with the Sundance Institute and in June 2009 launched BAMcinemaFest, a 16-day festival of new independent films and repertory favorites with 15 NY feature film premieres; the fourth annual BAMcinemaFest, with over 20 NY premieres and one North American premiere, ran from June 20—July 1, 2012.

Credits

The Wall Street Journal is the title sponsor of BAM Rose Cinemas and BAMcinématek.

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General Information

Tickets: General Admission: \$12
 BAM Cinema Club Members: \$7, BAM Cinema Club Movie Moguls: Free
 Seniors & Students (25 and under with a valid ID, Mon—Thu): \$9
 Bargain matinees (Mon—Thu before 5pm & Fri—Sun before 3pm no holidays): \$8

Tickets for family performances and workshops:
 Father Goose's Tales: \$12 per person
 Shadow Puppet Family Workshop: \$5 (admits one child and one adult)
 The Sweatshirt Sheep Puppetmaking Workshop: \$12 (admits one child and one adult)

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, is open for dining prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances. BAMcafé, currently on hiatus until mid-September, also features an eclectic mix of spoken word and live music for BAMcafé Live on select Friday and Saturday nights with a special BAMcafé Live menu available starting at 8pm.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater)
 D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue

Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center

Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM

Car: Commercial parking lots are located adjacent to BAM

For ticket and BAMbus information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.org.